

Amendments to the Claims

1 (currently amended): A low application temperature hot melt adhesive comprising from about 5 to about 55 wt % of a thermoplastic elastomer, from about 30 to about 90 wt % of a tackifying resin and from about 0.1 to [40] about 5 wt % of an ionomer resin.

2 canceled

3 (currently amended): The adhesive of claim [2] 1 further comprising up to about 40 wt % of a diluent and/or up to about 25 wt % of a wax.

4 canceled

5 (currently amended): The adhesive of claim [4] 1 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-b-ethylene/butylene-b-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene or a mixture thereof.

6 (original): The adhesive of claim 1, wherein the ionomer resin is selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers comprising moieties selected from the group consisting of carboxylate, sulphonate and phosphonate, which moieties are at least partly neutralized by metallic ions selected from the group consisting of Na^+ , Li^+ , Ca^{++} , Mg^{++} , Zn^{++} , Ba^{++} and Al^{+++} .

7-21 canceled

22 (currently amended): The adhesive of claim [21] 1 which can be applied at a temperature of from 270°F to about 285°F.

23 (currently amended): The adhesive of claim [21] 1 which can be applied at a temperature of from about 200°F to 250°F.

24-26 canceled

27 (new): An adhesive comprising

- a) from about 5 to about 35 wt % of a thermoplastic elastomer selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS), styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), styrene-isobutylene styrene (SIBS), styrene-b-ethylene/butylene-b-styrene (SEBS), styrene-b-ethylene/propylene-b-styrene (SEPS), radial copolymer (SI)_n wherein n is equal or larger than 3, (SB)_n wherein n is equal or larger than 3, and mixtures thereof,
- b) from about 40 to about 70 wt % of a tackifying resin which is compatible with the mid-block of the block-copolymer (a),
- c) from about 5 to about 30 wt percent of a thermoplastic hydrocarbon tackifier which is compatible with the end-block of the block-copolymer listed in (a), and
- d) from about 0.1 to about 15 wt percent of an ionomer resin.

28 (new): The adhesive of claim 27 wherein said ionomer resin is present in an amount from about 0.1 to about 5 wt %.

29 (new): The adhesive of claim 27 further comprising a diluent and/or a wax, which diluent is present in amounts of up to about 30 wt % and which wax is present in amounts of up to about 5 wt % wax.

30 (new): The adhesive of claim 27, wherein the ionomer resin is selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers comprising moieties selected from the group consisting of carboxylate, sulphonate and phosphonate, which moieties are at least partly neutralized by metallic ions selected from the group consisting of Na^+ , Li^+ , Ca^{++} , Mg^{++} , Zn^{++} , Ba^{++} and Al^{+++} .

31 (new): A hot melt adhesive consisting of from about 0.5 to about 55 wt % of a thermoplastic elastomer, from about 30 to about 90 wt % of a tackifying resin, from about 0.1 to 40 wt % of an ionomer resin, 0 to about 40 wt % of a liquid diluent, 0 to about 25 wt % of a wax and 0 to about 3 wt % of an antioxidant.

32 (new): The adhesive of claim 31 consisting of

a) from about 5 to about 35 wt % of a thermoplastic elastomer selected from the group consisting of styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS), styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS), styrene-

isobutylene styrene (SIBS), styrene-b-ethylene/butylene-b-styrene (SEBS), styrene-b-ethylene/propylene-b-styrene (SEPS), radial copolymer (SI)_n wherein n is equal or larger than 3, (SB)_n wherein n is equal or larger than 3, and mixtures thereof,

b) from about 40 to about 70 wt % of a tackifying resin which is compatible with the mid-block of the block-copolymer (a),

c) from about 5 to about 30 wt percent of a thermoplastic hydrocarbon tackifier which is compatible with the end-block of the block-copolymer listed in (a),

d) from about 0.1 to about 15 wt percent of an ionomer resin,

e) from 0 to about 30 wt % of a liquid diluent,

f) from 0 to about 5 wt % of a wax, and

g) from 0 to 3 wt % of an antioxidant.

33 (new): The adhesive of claim 31 wherein said ionomer resin is present in an amount from about 0.1 to about 5 wt %.

34 (new): The adhesive of claim 33 wherein said ionomer resin is selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers comprising moieties selected from the group consisting of carboxylate, sulphonate and phosphonate, which moieties are at least partly neutralized by metallic ions selected from the group consisting of Na⁺, Li⁺, Ca⁺⁺, Mg⁺⁺, Zn⁺⁺, Ba⁺⁺ and Al⁺⁺⁺.